

## Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 IGA-02 /085 W

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R 070451Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1958

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY SUVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WELLINGTON 3345

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, XP, NZ

SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND RESPONSES TO DEVELOPMENTS AMONG THE SOUTH  
PACIFIC NATIONS

REF: (A) WELLINGTON 2889, (B) STATE 204977

1. DEPUTY SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MERWYN NORRISH  
INFORMED EMBASSY THAT HE WAS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO GO  
TO WASHINGTON TO REPRESENT NEW ZEALAND AT THE MEETING  
ON AID TO THE SOUTH PACIFIC WHICH NORRISH UNDERSTOOD WOULD  
BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 23-24. NORRISH SAID NEW ZEALAND  
WANTED PARTICULARLY TO EXPLORE AT THE MEETING HOW BEST TO  
ASSIST SUCH UNDER-DEVELOPED SOUTH PACIFIC NATIONS AS TONGA AND  
WESTERN SAMOA. NEW ZEALAND HAD MADE VARIOUS EFFORTS IN  
THE PAST TO HELP THESE TWO NATIONS WITH OFTEN  
DISAPPOINTING RESULTS.

2. NORRISH SAID THAT HIS OWN EFFORTS AS HEAD OF THE  
PACIFIC AREA COORDINATING COMMITTEE HAD FULL SUPPORT  
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FROM PRIME MINISTER MULDOON WHO HAS DEVELOPED THE

KEENEST INTEREST IN NEW ZEALAND'S RELATIONS WITH THE SOUTH PACIFIC COUNTRIES. THE PRIME MINISTER IS DUE TO ADDRESS THE SPEC (SOUTH PACIFIC BUREAU FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION) MEETING IN SUVA OCTOBER 12-14. NORRISH AND OTHERS ARE WORKING ON A SPEECH FOR THE PRIME MINISTER DESIGNED TO PORTRAY MULDOON AND NEW ZEALAND AS SENSITIVE TO THE NEEDS OF SOUTH PACIFIC NATIONS AND ANXIOUS TO HELP. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ALSO RECENTLY DECIDED, NORRISH SAID, TO EASE THE RESTRICTIVE WORK PERMIT SYSTEM INSTITUTED BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT WHEN IT CAME TO POWER LAST DECEMBER. HERETOFORE, WHEN THE WORK PERMIT OF A TONGAN, WESTERN SAMOAN, OR FIJIAN EXPIRED, THE ISLANDER RETURNED HOME AND HIS PLACE WAS TAKEN BY A NEW ZEALANDER, AMONG WHOM UNEMPLOYMENT IS CURRENTLY HIGH. UNDER THE RELAXED SCHEME DEPARTING ISLAND WORKERS CAN BE REPLACED BY OTHER WORKERS FROM THE ISLAND NATIONS, IF THAT IS WHAT THE NEW ZEALAND EMPLOYERS DESIRE, AS THEY ALMOST ALWAYS DO. THE RESULT IS THAT REMITTANCES BY ISLAND WORKERS TO THEIR HOME COUNTRIES ARE AT LEAST NO LONGER DECLINING; THIS WAS MULDOON'S MAIN OBJECTIVE IN RELAXING THE RULES. DECLINING REMITTANCES FROM NEW ZEALAND UNDER THE RESTRICTIVE WORK PERMIT SYSTEM HAD BECOME A VERY SORE POINT IN TONGA, WESTERN SAMOA, AND FIJI.

3. FINALLY, NORRISH CONFIRMED REPORTS THAT NEW ZEALAND WILL ESTABLISH A RESIDENT HIGH COMMISSIONER IN NUKU'ALOFA. THE GNZ FELT IT NEEDED MORE ACCURATE AND DETAILED REPORTING FROM TONGA THAN IT HAD BEEN GETTING FROM THE NON-RESIDENT NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSIONER IN APIA, PARTICULARLY IN THE LIGHT OF SOVIET OVERTURES TO THE KING OF TONGA. THE NEW ZEALAND CABINET ON SEPTEMBER 6 GAVE FORMAL APPROVAL TO ESTABLISHING THE NEW HIGH COMMISSION.

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** EAID, PFOR, XP, NZ, TN, WS, (NORRISH, MERWYN)  
**To:** STATE  
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